26th September 1955]

*Novvancheri Producers'-cum-Consumers' Cooperative Society*

* 2501 *Q*.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received through the Hon. Chief Minister a memorandum, dated 11th May 1955, from Novvancheri Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society, Limited, Malabar, claiming a sum of Rs. 28,932-3-0 as loss due to shortages; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The Government examined the claim in consultation with the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies). The claim of the President of the Society for compensating the entire loss of Rs. 28,932-3-0 alleged to have been sustained by the society could not be complied with in view of the fact that the aggregate shortage made up of a number of small items, which are below 5 maunds each, comes to less than 1 per cent of the total quantity received, which is within the margin for which shortage allowance is given. The Government are, however, considering the question of giving compensation to the society in respect of a shortage of 323·20 maunds of rice noticed in the consignments of rice received from Vijayavada and orders will issue in due course.

* 2502 *Q*.—SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation from the President, Novvancheri Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society, requesting the Government to compensate the loss of Rs. 28,932-3-0, incurred by the society due to the shortages noticed in the rice supplies received by the society during the year 1952-53; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer furnished to the starred Madras Legislative Assembly question No. 2501 by Sri M. Narayana Kurup, on the same subject.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : It has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Government that though these societies have ceased to function for all practical purposes, they could not be taken over by the Co-operative Department inasmuch as the amounts due to the Government from the societies have not been settled and that they are incurring heavy losses on account of the establishment charges. Therefore, will the Government see that this claim is settled very early to avoid future losses?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I may tell the hon. Member that the settlement of these claims has been expeditiously done.